

West Virginia Conservation Agency

is sponsoring, in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), a comprehensive investigation of the problems and opportunities associated with assessing flood damage within the state, planning and implementing flood protection, and impacts of floodplain management procedures.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding toward this project approaches \$2 million. The plan will provide comprehensive strategies for implementing both structural and nonstructural flood protection measures throughout the state, while identifying potential resources for municipal, county and state use.

The study will review data and findings from a variety of sources, including watershed resource assessments, currently in progress in various counties. Interagency Review planning and coordination has continued to enhance development of the Statewide Flood Protection Plan.

Vision Statement

"The Statewide Flood Protection Plan will be a guidance document which provides a strategic plan and implementation strategy for reducing flood damages throughout West Virginia. Extensive involvement by stakeholders throughout the state is essential and will be the foundation for development of the plan."

Once completed, the plan will provide a comprehensive assessment of the state's flood protection problems and needs, identify potential solutions to the state's many flooding problems, and recommend mechanisms for coordinated implementation of the plan."

Water Resource Management and Multi-Purpose Watershed Projects in West Virginia

Because of the mountainous terrain and lack of natural flatwater resources, West Virginians constantly face issues of water supply, flood protection and streambank conservation. The West Virginia Conservation Partnership, made up of the

West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the state's 14 Soil Conservation Districts, have made water resource management and development one of their highest priorities. Our work in the water resources arena includes leadership on such projects as multi-purpose reservoir construction, streambank protection and restoration, and countywide water resource assessments and plans.

The Conservation Partnership has a history of using relatively small state appropriations to leverage large amounts of federal funding to West Virginia for these infrastructure projects. This continued in fiscal year 2002 as over \$4.1 million in State Legislature appropriations to the West Virginia Soil Conservation Agency will be magnified by more than \$135 million in various federal program appropriations for resource infrastructure projects in the Mountain State.

Much of the Conservation Partnership's water resource management and development work is carried out through the P.L. 566 and P.L. 534 programs for watershed protection, community flood protection, public water supply and water-based recreational projects. In efforts to prevent flood damages, there are 167 flood control structures around the state protecting many communities.

Some of the chief benefits of the program, in addition to flood protection, include the development of water-based recreational facilities as well as the development of public water supplies. The infrastructure created enhances economic development and also provides for significant employment opportunities.